

Amendments to the Claims

1. (cancelled)
2. (cancelled)
3. (currently amended) A toy percussion instrument as set forth in claim 4 5, wherein the striker attachment location is spaced inwardly from the ends of the striker by at least one fourth the length of the striker.
4. (original) A toy percussion instrument as set forth in claim 3, wherein the striker has a rounded striker end portion and an opposite handle end portion.
5. (previously presented) A toy percussion instrument, comprising:
 - an instrument body;
 - two strikers for striking the instrument body to produce a sound; and
 - two tethers respectively connecting the strikers to the instrument body;wherein each tether has one end connected to the instrument body at a body attachment location, and an opposite end connected to the respective striker at a striker attachment location, the striker attachment location being spaced inwardly from the ends of the respective striker by at least one fourth the length of the striker;
 - wherein each striker has a rounded striker end portion and an opposite handle end portion; and
 - wherein the body attachment locations are located on the same side of the instrument body.
6. (previously presented) A toy percussion instrument as set forth in claim 5, wherein the instrument body has a drumming surface surrounded by a peripheral wall, and the striker attachment location is spaced inwardly from the outer end of striker end portion of the respective striker by a distance about equal the

distance between the respective body attachment location and the center of the drumming surface.

7. (original) A toy percussion instrument as set forth in claim 6, wherein the body attachment locations are located on the peripheral wall at the same or about the same location.
8. (original) A toy percussion instrument as set forth in claim 7, wherein the instrument body has the shape of an animal.
9. (original) A toy percussion instrument as set forth in claim 8, wherein the animal shape is that of a turtle and the drumming surface forms at least a part of the turtle's shell.
10. (original) A toy percussion instrument as set forth in claim 9, wherein the combined length of the tethers and any spacing between the body attachment locations is no greater than about 14 inches.
11. (cancelled)
12. (currently amended) A toy percussion instrument, comprising:
 - an instrument body having a drumming surface;
 - two strikers for striking the drumming surface to produce a sound; and
 - two tethers respectively connecting the strikers to the instrument body;
 - wherein each tether has one end connected to the instrument body at a body attachment location adjacent the drumming surface, and an opposite end connected to the respective striker at a striker attachment location, the striker attachment location being spaced inwardly from the an outer end of a striker end portion of the respective striker by a distance about equal the distance between the body attachment location and a center of the drumming surface; and
 - wherein the combined length of the tethers and any spacing between the body attachment locations is no greater than about 14 inches.

13. (original) A toy percussion instrument as set forth in claim 12, wherein each striker has a rounded striker end portion and an opposite handle end portion.
14. (original) A toy percussion instrument as set forth in claim 12, wherein the body attachment locations are located on the same side of the instrument body.
15. (previously presented) A toy percussion instrument, comprising:
 - an instrument body having a drumming surface;
 - two strikers for striking the drumming surface to produce a sound; and
 - two tethers respectively connecting the strikers to the instrument body;wherein each tether has one end connected to the instrument body at a body attachment location adjacent the drumming surface, and an opposite end connected to the respective striker at a striker attachment location, the striker attachment location being spaced inwardly from the outer end of striker end portion of the respective striker by a distance about equal the distance between the body attachment location and a center of the drumming surface; and
 - wherein the body attachment locations are located at the same or about the same location.
16. (currently amended) A toy percussion instrument as set forth in claim ~~11~~ 12, wherein the instrument body has the shape of an animal.
17. (original) A toy percussion instrument as set forth in claim 16, wherein the animal shape is that of a turtle and the drumming surface forms at least a part of the turtle's shell.
18. (currently amended) A toy percussion instrument as set forth in claim ~~14~~ 15, wherein each striker has a rounded striker end portion and an opposite handle end portion.
19. (previously presented) A toy percussion instrument, comprising:
 - an instrument body having a drumming surface;

two strikers for striking the drumming surface to produce a sound; and
two tethers respectively connecting the strikers to the instrument body;
wherein each tether has one end connected to the instrument body at a
body attachment location adjacent the drumming surface, and an opposite end
connected to the respective striker at a striker attachment location, the striker
attachment location being spaced inwardly from the outer end of striker end
portion of the respective striker by a distance about equal the distance between
the body attachment location and a center of the drumming surface;

wherein each striker has a rounded striker end portion and an opposite
handle end portion; and

wherein the body attachment locations are located at the same or about
the same location.

20. (currently amended) A toy percussion instrument as set forth in claim 19,
wherein the instrument body is in the form of at least one of an animal and a
drum.

21. (cancelled)

22. (currently amended) A toy, comprising:

a main unit having a play area with a center;

~~an implement~~ two implements manipulable by a child in relation to the
play area of the main unit, each implement having a handle end portion and a
non-handle end portion; and

~~a tether~~ two tethers respectively connecting the implements to the main
unit;

wherein ~~the~~ each tether has one end connected to the implement at a
main unit attachment location, an opposite end connected to the implement at an
implement attachment location, and an intermediate portion extending loosely
between the ends of the tether, the implement attachment location being fixed in
relation to and spaced inwardly from a non-handle end of the implement by a
distance about equal the distance between the main unit attachment location

and the center of the play area, and the combined length of the tethers and any spacing between the main unit attachment locations is no greater than 14 inches.

23. (cancelled)

24. (previously presented) A toy percussion instrument, comprising:

an instrument body having a drumming surface;

two strikers for striking the drumming surface to produce a sound; and

two tethers respectively connecting the strikers to the instrument body;

wherein each tether has one end connected to the instrument body at a body attachment location adjacent the drumming surface, and an opposite end connected to the respective striker at a striker attachment location, the striker attachment location being spaced inwardly from the outer end of striker end portion of the respective striker by a distance about equal the distance between the body attachment location and a center of the drumming surface; and

wherein the body attachment locations are located at the same or about the same location.

25. (currently amended) A toy comprising:

a main unit having a play area with a center;

two implements manipulable by a child in relation to the play area of the main unit, each implement having a handle end portion and a non-handle end portion; and

two tethers respectively connecting the implements to the main unit;

wherein each tether has one end connected to the main unit at a main unit attachment location, an opposite end connected to the respective implement at an implement attachment location from which the tether extends away from the respective implement, and an intermediate portion extending loosely between the ends of the implement, the implement attachment location being spaced inwardly from the ends located between the handle end portion and non-handle end portion of the respective implement; and

wherein the respective main unit attachment locations are located on the same side of the main unit, and the combined length of the tethers and any spacing between the body attachment locations is no greater than 14 inches.

26. (new) A toy as set forth in claim 22, wherein the striker attachment location is spaced inwardly from an outer end of non-handle end portion of the respective striker by a distance about equal the distance between the respective main unit attachment location and the center of the play area.
27. (new) A toy percussion instrument as set forth in claim 26, wherein the play area is surrounded by a peripheral wall, and the main unit attachment locations are located on the peripheral wall at the same or about the same location.
28. (new) A toy percussion instrument as set forth in claim 27, wherein the main unit has the shape of an animal.
29. (new) A toy as set forth in claim 25, wherein the striker attachment location is spaced inwardly from an outer end of non-handle end portion of the respective striker by a distance about equal the distance between the respective main unit attachment location and the center of the play area.
30. (new) A toy percussion instrument as set forth in claim 29, wherein the play area is surrounded by a peripheral wall, and the main unit attachment locations are located on the peripheral wall at the same or about the same location.
31. (new) A toy percussion instrument as set forth in claim 30, wherein the main unit has the shape of an animal.